



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

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SECURITIES DIVISION NAMES ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

All of the winners are from East Tennessee

NASHVILLE, TENN. - Three Tennessee high school seniors have won the state's financial literacy essay contest, earning U.S. Savings Bonds for writing about "My Money Management Plan."

The statewide contest is the first of its kind sponsored by the Securities Division of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. The contest was designed to get high school students thinking about their own financial goals and planning.

"Part of our mission is to promote financial literacy in all age groups, because it's never too early to become an informed consumer and investor," said Daphne Smith, Assistant Commissioner for the Securities Division. "We are thrilled to have had 130 entries for this essay contest, and to have three such outstanding winners."

Leigh Ann Poole of Farragut High School in Knoxville won the first place award, earning \$1,500 in U.S. Savings Bonds. Andrew Holloway of Roane County High School won second place, for a \$1,000 bond. Third place went to Kaleigh Kott of Gatlinburg-Pittman High School, with a \$500 bond.

"The first place winner was realistic and practical, and stated she would use credit cards wisely and only for travel and emergencies," said Jane Gault, a UT Extension agent who was one of three contest judges.

The Securities Division enforces the Tennessee Securities Act of 1980 to maintain the integrity of the securities market and to protect investors. The Division also promotes investor education and the prevention of fraud in the securities industry. Funding for the savings bonds came from the proceeds of various securities settlements that have been earmarked for outreach and education. Smith said she hopes to make the contest an annual statewide event.

Presentations of the awards will be made to each of the students at their high schools this week.

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